

Question 1.

US-India going strategic partnership is primarily to contain china but it severely hurt the interests of Pakistan too. Critically evaluate the statement and give ways out for Islamabad to follow.

1. Introduction:-

The US-India strategic partnership is a bilateral relationship between the United States and India that has evolved significantly since the early 2000s, with a primary aim to counterbalance China's growing economic, military, and political influence in the Indo-Pacific region. The partnership is built on shared democratic values, economic interests, and a desire to maintain a stable and secure region.

The US and India have strengthened their defense ties, increased trade and investment, and collaborated on regional issues, such as south China sea and Afghanistan, to counter China's expanding footprint and promote a rules-based international order. This partnership has led to increased cooperation in areas like defense, technology, and energy, with the aim of promoting a free, open, and

inclusive. Indo-Pacific region. Key aspects include:

1.1. Defense Cooperation:-

Both countries enhanced military ties, joint exercises, and technology sharing to counter China's military expansion. India is looking to buy 18 armed high-altitude along-endurance unmanned aerial vehicles from General Atomic Aeronautical Systems Inc. for an estimated \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion. The US intends to support India in the creation of logistic, repair, and maintenance infrastructure for aircraft and ships. India and US have also signed key defence pacts and have deepened cooperation as part of the QUAD security group, which also includes Japan and Australia.

1.2 Economic Cooperation:-

Increased trade and investment, focusing on technology, energy, and infrastructure development to counter China's economic influence. In 2021, overall US-India bilateral trade in goods and services reached a record \$157 billion. The United States is India's largest trading partner and most important export market. Many US companies view India as a critical market and

have expanded their operations there. Likewise, Indian companies seek to increase their presence in US markets and at the end of 2020, Indian investment in the United States totaled \$122.7 billion, supporting over 70,000 American jobs.

1.3

Regional Cooperation:-

Both countries collaborate on regional issues, such as South China sea and Afghanistan, to counter China's growing regional presence. US and India have strengthened their quadrilateral dialogue to promote a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. Both countries conduct annual naval exercises to enhance maritime cooperation and security in the Indo-Pacific. The US and India both are part of the IPEF, aimed at promoting economic cooperation and integration in the Indo-Pacific region. They have launched the Asia-Pacific Growth Initiative to promote economic growth, trade, and investment in the region.

2. Impacts on Pakistan Interests:-

The US-India Strategic Partnership has significant implications for Pakistan's security, foreign policy, and economy, including:

2.1

• Security:

↳ Increased pressure on Pakistan to address US and Indian concerns on terrorism and Kashmir, potentially leading to increase military tensions.

2.2

• Economic:-

↳ Potential marginalization of Pakistan's economic significance in the region, increased competition for its exports and economic influence, and limitations on its access to US and Indian markets.

2.3

• Diplomatic

↳ Increased diplomatic pressure on Pakistan, potentially isolating it internationally, and limiting its diplomatic maneuverability.

3.

Ways Forward for Islamabad:-

To mitigate the negative impacts, Islamabad can consider:

3.1

Diversifying Foreign Relations:-

Pakistan can diversify its foreign policy to counterbalance the negative impact of US-India strategic partnership by:

(a) Strengthening ties with China:

Pakistan can further deepen its strategic partnership with China, including through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

(b) Enhancing relations with Russia:

Pakistan can build on its growing ties with Russia, including in areas like defense and energy cooperation.

(c) Engaging with the European Union:

Pakistan can strengthen its relationship with the EU, including through trade, agreements and diplomatic engagement.

(d) Building bridges with Iran:-

Pakistan can improve its relations with Iran, including through economic cooperation and regional diplomacy.

(e) Strengthening regional organizations:-

Pakistan can play a more active role in regional organizations like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

3.2 Strengthening Regional Diplomacy:-

Pakistan should build strong relationships with neighboring countries, including Afghanistan and Iran to counter regional isolationism by

(a) Revitalizing SAARC:-

Pakistan can take steps to revive the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and promote regional cooperation.

(b) Enhancing ECO participation

Pakistan can increase its engagement with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to strengthen regional economic ties.

(c) Strengthening bilateral Relations:-

Pakistan can focus on building strong bilateral relationships with neighboring countries including Afghanistan, Iran, and central Asian states.

(d) Promoting Regional Trade:-

Pakistan can support regional connectivity initiatives, such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline.

3.3 Economic Development:-

Pakistan can prioritize economic growth and development to counter the negative impact of the US-India strategic partnership by:

(a) Diversifying Trade Partners:-

~~Developing transportation~~
Expanding trade relations with other countries, especially China, Russia, and the EU.

(b) Investing in infrastructures

Developing transportation networks, energy projects, and industrial zones to enhance economic competitiveness.

(c) Promoting Industrialization:-

Encouraging manufacturing and exports through policies like the "Make in Pakistan" initiative.

(d) Strengthening regional trade agreements:-

Enhancing trade ties with neighboring countries through agreements like PAFTA and ECO.

3.4 Dialogue and diplomacy:-

Pakistan can counter the negative impact of the US-India strategic partnership through dialogue and diplomacy by:

(a) Engaging in diplomatic efforts:-

Pakistan can maintain regular high-level exchanges with the US and India to address concerns and promote understanding.

(b) Reviving bilateral talks:-

Reinstating dialogue on issues like Kashmir, trade, and security to reduce tensions.

(c) Utilizing international forums:-

Raising concerns and promoting Pakistan's perspective at global platforms like the UN, SCO and OIC.

(d) Strengthening relations with US allies:-

Building bridges with countries like Japan, South Korea, and European nations to counter balance the US-India

- Partnership.
- (e) **Encouraging Track II diplomacy:-**
Supporting informal dialogue channels between think tanks, academics, and civil society to promote understanding.

4. **Conclusion:-**

Pakistan can counter the negative impact of the US-India strategic partnership by prioritizing economic growth and development, strengthening regional diplomacy, and engaging in proactive dialogue and diplomacy. By diversifying trade partners, investing in infrastructure, and promoting innovation, Pakistan can reduce its dependence on any one country or region. Additionally, engaging in diplomatic efforts, reviving bilateral talks, and utilizing international forums can help address concerns and promote understanding. By taking a comprehensive approach, Pakistan can mitigate the negative impact of the US-India partnership and promote regional peace and stability.